



## Chippewa Update – September 2010

### Recovery Act Work:



- *Photo Left:* The former Pigeon River Dam now shows its natural appeal instead. By spring, even the rocks will be obscured by greenery.

- *Photo Below:* Volunteers Barb Miller and Pat Mason are assisting the Recovery Act work at Camp Rabideau by re-glazing some of the 21 windows needed for the restored buildings.



- *Photo Below:* All Recovery Act funds for Camp Rabideau (\$1.5 million) have been obligated to complete foundations, roofs, windows and some interiors to enhance current and future program operation. Camp Rabideau will continue to be a colorful construction zone into 2011.



- Bridge replacement work has begun along Eagle Nest Road (FR 2171) to complete work on the Experimental Forest Roads project.

- Campground Toilet Replacements are here, ready to be installed at nine locations.

## Meeting Our Commitments:



- *Photo Left:* The Walker District Administrative site construction projects (at \$6 million) rival the scope of Recovery Act projects just completed (\$5.5 million). Three Temporary office buildings will house Walker District employees for the next 18 months. [*Darin Ferkey, recent Schenck Jobs Corps graduate, walks the plank*]

- The Final EIS for the 230 Kv Powerline across the Chippewa NF is now available. The Record of Decision authorizing this special use is anticipated yet this year.

- Oral presentations by Recreation Residence appellants are to be heard Sept 24<sup>th</sup>.
- The Chippewa National Forest Resource Advisory Committee meets for the first time on October 7<sup>th</sup> in Grand Rapids, MN.

## Connecting Citizens to the Land

- Changes are in store for the Rabideau Conservation Corps program: RCC lead instructor Mark Anderson, grant writer Vicki, the Cass Lake School superintendent, and Randy Finn, CALC Board president, are all experiencing some position shifts. Several will continue involvement with Camp Rabideau programs as replacements come on board.

- The Barrington, Illinois Rotary International spent a day at Camp Rabideau visiting with youth workers, members of the Leech Lake Tribal Council, and the Bemidji Rotary group in search of opportunities to assist both the programs and the Leech Lake Band. [Bemidji Pioneer photo: *Jim Proebstle, author and Barrington (Ill.) Breakfast Rotary Exchange member, discusses the Camp Rabideau Academy and Learning Center -CALC- with Carl Crawford, Chippewa National Forest; Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Rep. Eugene Whitebird; CALC Chairman Randy Finn; and Leech Lake Chairman Archie LaRose*]



- On September 3, the National Professional Anglers Association (NPAA) held a Kid's Fishing Clinic before the awards ceremony of the AIM International Championship on Lake Winnibigoshish . The 50 to 75 participants had a presentation on invasive species and received a new rod and reel donated by the Forest. Next up: The Forest L. Wood professional walleye tournament on Leech Lake on Sept 22 - 25 in Walker.

## Protecting Ecosystems Across Boundaries

- Chippewa National Forest is now the official owner of the former Moe land parcel adjacent to Camp Rabideau.



## Efficiency and Effectiveness

- The Executive Leadership Team has approved changing our district consolidation boundaries, a carryover from actions begun in 2000 that affects organization structure codes, data collection and reporting, and our identity. The Chippewa NF at last officially has three Districts to track: Blackduck, Deer River, and Walker.

## An Employer of Choice

- *Photo Right:* Acting Forest Supervisor Nick Schmal is quickly filling his quarterly calendar with Chippewa NF events and issues.
- Congrats to Deer River Ranger Joe Alexander, leaving the Chippewa to become the Forest Supervisor of the Shoshone NF this November. Greg Van Orsow, District Natural Resource Lead, will be Acting Ranger a little longer than he expected.



- The *Washington Monthly* released its top college rankings, and our local Leech Lake Tribal College was rated as #7 of quality two-year colleges in America. Congrats!
- Justin Repine is a new LEO who will train here this month, then be stationed in Oscoda, Michigan. Justin is the second officer in training with the Chippewa NF this year.
- Just as SCEP Rocky Goggleye was converted to a Deer River Forestry Technician he was also promoted to the rank of father. Congrats! Rocky will also continue to lead and manage the district's timber sale prep marking crew program as it continues to expand and will add timber sale harvest inspection, wildfire and wildlife skills.
- How do you build morale while filling 7 vacancies and adding an extra workload of \$6 million of Recovery Act work, a \$6 million office site construction, 2 forestwide EIS's, 90 Recreation Residence fee appeals? You cheer for the amazing Chippewa Technical Services Team [*Photo below: The Chippewa NF Tech Services Team on awards day*]



- Beth Rankin, Regional Safety and Occupational Health Manager, will be visiting us in October.